Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for treating hair which comprises:

(a) contacting said hair with a substantially inactive mixture of oxidative hair dye precursors[; and] wherein the rate of oxidation of hair dye precursors/ rate of diffusion of hair dye precursors < 1;

(b) allowing said mixture to remain in said hair for a period of about 30 seconds to about 60 minutes[.];

(c) contacting said hair with a composition comprising an oxidizing compound, a basifying compound, or mixtures thereof;

(d) allowing the composition in step (c) to remain on said hair for a period of about 30 seconds to about 60 minutes.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein said mixture of oxidative hair dye precursors comprises an oxidizing compound and said mixture has about an acidic pH to about a neutral pH.

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said mixture of oxidative hair dye precursors comprises a basifying compound.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, which further comprises:
~~a) contacting said hair with an oxidizing compound for a period of about 30 seconds to about 60 minutes,~~
~~b),~~a) contacting said hair with a basifying composition; and
[[c)]] b) allowing said basifying compound to remain in said hair for a period of about 30 seconds to about 60 minutes.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein said mixture of oxidative dye precursors are selected from the group consisting of m-aminophenol; 3-methyl-p-aminophenol; 2,3-dimethyl-p-aminophenol; p-phenylene diamine; p-toluenediamine; p-phenylenediamine; 2-chloro-p- phenylenediamine; N-phenyl-p-phenylenediamine; N-2-methoxyethyl-p-phenylenediamine; N,N-bis-(hydroxyethyl)-p-phenylenediamine; 2-hydroxymethyl-p-phenylenediamine; 2-hydroxyethyl-p-phenylenediamine; 4, 4'-diaminodiphenylamine; 2,6-dimethyl-p-phenylenediamine; 2-isopropyl-p- phenylenediamine; N-(2-hydroxypropyl)-p-phenylenediamine;2-propyl-p- phenylenediamine; 1,3-N, N-bis-(2-hydroxyethyl)-N, N-bis (4-aminophenyl)- 2-propanol; 2-methyl-4-dimethylaminoaniline; p-aminophenol; p- methylaminophenol; 3-methyl-p-aminophenol; 2-hydroxymethyl-p-aminophenol; 2-methyl-p-aminophenol; 2-(2-hydroxyethylaminomethyl)-p-aminophenol; 2-methoxymethyl-p-aminophenol; and 5-aminosalicylic acid; catechol; pyrogallol; o-aminophenol; 2, 4-diaminophenol; ~~2,4,5-trihydroxytoluene;1,2,4-trihydroxybenzene~~; 2- ethylamino-p-cresol; 2,3-dihydroxynaphthalene; 5-methyl-o-aminophenol; 6-methyl-o-aminophenol; and 2-amino-5-acetaminophenol; 2-methyl-1- naphthol; 1-acetoxy-2-methylnaphthalene; 1,7-dihydroxynaphthalene; resorcinol; 4-chlororesorcinol; 1-naphthol; 1,5-dihydroxynaphthalene; 2,7-dihydroxynaphthalene; 2-methylresorcinol; 1-hydroxy-6-

aminonaphthalene- 3-sulfonic acid; thymol (2-isopropyl-5-methylphenol); 1,5-dihydroxy-1,2, 3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene; 2-chlororesorcinol; 2,3-dihydroxy-1,4-naphthoquinone; and 1-naphthol-4-sulfonic acid; m-phenylenediamine; 2-(2,4-diaminophenoxy)ethanol; N,N-bis(hydroxyethyl)-m-phenylenediamine; 2,6-diaminotoluene; N,N-bis(hydroxyethyl)-2,4-diaminophenetole;bis(2,4-diaminophenoxy)-1,3-propane; 1-hydroxyethyl-2,4-diaminobenzene; 2-amino- 4 hydroxyethylaminoanisole; aminoethoxy-2,4-diaminobenzene; 2,4-diaminophenoxyacetic acid; 4,6-bis(hydroxyethoxy)-m-phenylenediamine; 2,4-diamino-5-methylphenetole; 2,4-diamino-5-hydroxyethoxytoluene; 2,4- dimethoxy 1,3-diaminobenzene; and 2,6-bis(hydroxyethylamino) toluene; m-aminophenol; 2-hydroxy-4- carbamoylmethylaminotoluene;m-carbamoylmethylaminophenol; 6-hydroxybenzomorpholine; 2-hydroxy-4-aminotoluene; 2-hydroxy-4-hydroxyethylaminotoluene; 4,6-dichloro-m-aminophenol; 2-methyl-m-aminophenol; 2-chloro-6-methyl-m-aminophenol; 2-hydroxyethoxy-5- aminophenol; 2-chloro-5-trifluoroethylaminophenol; 4-chloro-6-methyl-m- aminophenol; N-cyclopentyl-3-aminophenol; N-hydroxyethyl-4-methoxy-2-methyl-m-aminophenol and 5-amino-4-methoxy-2-methylphenol; 2-dimethylamino-5-aminopyridine; 2,4,5,6-tetra-aminopyrimidine; 4,5-diamino-1-methylpyrazole; 4,5-diamino-1-hydroxymethyl pyrazole, 4,5-diamino-1-hydroxyethylpyrazole; 1-phenyl-3-methyl-5-pyrazolone; 6-methoxy-8-aminoquinoline; 2,6-dihydroxy-4-methylpyridine; 5-hydroxy-1,4-benzodioxane; 3,4-methylenedioxyphenol; 4-hydroxyethylamino-1,2-methylenedioxybenzene; 2,6-dihydroxy-3,4- dimethylpyridine; 5-chloro-2,3-dihydroxypyridine; 3,5-diamino-2,6- dimethoxypyridine; 2-hydroxyethylamino-6-methoxy-3-aminopyridine; 3,4- methylenedioxyaniline; 2,6-bis-hydroxyethoxy-3,5-diaminopyridine; ~~4-hydroxyindole~~; 3-amino-5-hydroxy-2,6-dimethoxypyridine; ~~5,6-dihydroxyindole; 7-hydroxyindole; 5-hydroxyindole~~; 2-bromo-4,5-methylenedioxyphenol; ~~6-hydroxyindole;~~ 3-amino-2-methylamino-6-methoxypyridine; 2-amino-3-hydroxypyridine; 2,6-diaminopyridine; 5-(3,5-diamino-

2-pyridyloxy)-1,3-dihydroxypentane; 3-(3,5-diamino-2-pyridyloxy)-2-hydroxypropanol; 4-hydroxy-2,5,6-triaminopyrimidine, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 8 (original): A method according to claim 1 wherein said oxidation hair dye precursor composition comprises:

(a) about 0.001% to about 1.0% of an oxidation hair dye precursor;

(b) about 0.001% to about 1.0% of a second oxidation hair dye precursor; and

(c) an aqueous carrier.

Claim 9 (original): A method according to claim 1 wherein said oxidation hair dye precursor composition comprises:

a) about 0.02% to about 0.1% of an oxidation hair dye precursor;

b) optionally about 0.02% to about 0.1% of a second oxidation hair dye precursor; and

c) an aqueous carrier.

Claim 10 (original): A method according to claim 5 wherein said oxidation hair dye precursor composition comprises:

a) about 0.01 to about 10% of an oxidative compound;

b) about 0.01 to about 5% of a basifying compound; and

c) an aqueous carrier.

Claim 11 (original) A method according to claim 11 wherein said oxidative composition comprises

a) about 0.1 to about 5.0% of an oxidative compound;

b) about 0.1 to about 3.0% of a basifying agent; and

c) an aqueous carrier.

Claim 12 (original) A method according to claim 3 wherein said mixture of oxidative hair dye precursors comprises:

a) about 0.001% to about 5.0% of an oxidation hair dye precursor;
b) about 0.001% to about 3.0% of a second oxidation hair dye precursor;
c) about 0.1 to about 4.5% of an oxidative compound; and
d) an aqueous carrier.

Claim 13 (original) A method according to claim 12 wherein said mixture of oxidative hair dye precursors comprises

a) about 0.1% to about 3.0% of an oxidation hair dye precursors;
b) about 0.1% to about 3.0% of a second oxidation hair dye precursor;
c) about 0.1 to about 4.0% of an oxidative compound; and
d) an aqueous carrier.

Claim 14 (currently modified) A method according to claim 1, wherein said mixture of oxidative hair dye precursors ~~comprising a basifying compound~~ comprises:

a) about 0.1 to about 1% of an oxidative compound;
b) about 0.1 to about 3.0% of a second oxidation hair dye precursor;
c) about 0.1 to about 1.5% of a basifying compound; and
d) an aqueous carrier.

Claim 15 (currently modified): A method according to claim [2]1 wherein said oxidative compound is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen peroxide, urea peroxide, melamine peroxide, sodium perborate and sodium percarbonate.

Claim 16 (original): A method according to claim 1, for treating hair which comprises providing said hair longer lasting color.

Claim 17 (currently modifed): A kit for permanently coloring hair which comprises:

a) a hair colorant composition comprising oxidative dye precursors in a container,

b) a hair color developer composition in a container, and

c) written instructions that direct that the hair colorant part is applied to the hair as a substantially inactive mixture for about 30 seconds to about 60 minutes before the hair color developer is applied to the hair.

wherein the hair dye precursors of the hair colorant composition satisfies the condition that the rate of oxidation of hair dye precursors/rate of diffusion of hair dye precursors <1 when hair colorant composition is applied to the hair before the hair is contacted with the hair color developer composition.

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (new): A method according to claim 1 wherein the oxidative dye precursors comprises at least one primary intermediate and at least one coupler.

Claim 20 (new): A method according to claim 1 wherein the oxidative dye precursors are selected from the group consisting of: p-phenylenediamine; p-aminophenol; p-amino-o-cresol; 4-amino-3-hydroxytoluene; and mixtures thereof.

Claim 21 (new): A method according to claim 1 wherein the mixture of oxidative hair dye is allowed to remain on the hair in step b) for a period of from about 5 minutes to about 60 minutes.

Claim 22 (new): A kit according to claim 17 wherein the oxidative dye precursors are selected from the group consisting of: p-phenylenediamine; p-aminophenol; p-amino-o-cresol; 4-amino-3-hydroxytoluene; and mixtures thereof.

Claim 23 (new): A method according to claim 1 wherein the mixture of oxidative hair dye precursors is allowed to remain on the hair in step b) for a period of from about 20 minutes to about 60 minutes.

Claim 24 (new): A kit according to claim 17 wherein the written instructions direct that the hair colorant part is applied to the hair as a substantially inactive mixture for about 5 minutes to about 60 minutes before the hair color developer is applied to the hair.